

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The listing of a totally irrelevant Patent No. 6,230,091 on the first line of the PTO-1449 earlier submitted was a typographical/wording processing error. The only patent that should have been listed on the PTO-1449 is US Patent No. 6,230,094 to Ohashi et al. which the Examiner has obviously considered and relied upon in the outstanding Office Action.

Any extra effort or confusion caused by the erroneous listing of an irrelevant patent is sincerely regretted and apologies are offered.

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly made "obvious" based on Ohashi et al. '094 in view of Sugita et al. '603 is respectfully traversed.

As will be noted, applicant has above cancelled claim 4 without prejudice of disclaimer and incorporated the substance of this limitation in independent claim 1. Accordingly, both independent claims 1 and 6 now require an abnormality determination when the interval of monitor program execution falls outside a predetermined range. This makes it possible to monitor not only the monitored microcomputer but also to detect abnormalities of monitor program execution as well.

In Ohashi et al. '094, two microcomputers 4 and 6 monitor each other and a watchdog circuit abnormality detection program causes a fail-safe action to be taken if any

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abnormality of the microcomputer 4 or the abnormality detection program is found. In Sugita et al '603, a CPU is reset if a timer circuit is not refreshed. Neither reference teaches setting a new time count on condition that a monitor program execution interval is within an acceptable range. Therefore, the present invention cannot be suggested even if the two applied references are combined.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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PROPOSED DRAWING AMENDMENTS
FOR SN 09/988,179

FIG. 1

